

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method of searching or browsing multimedia data. comprising:

(a) receiving reference multimedia data with a data structure including features of said reference multimedia data and weight information of said features, wherein said data structure includes reliability information indicating a reliability of the weight information;

(b) searching for said reference multimedia data using the features and the weight information;

(c) receiving user feedback on a relevance of resultant multimedia data found in (b);

(d) measuring a similarity of the reference multimedia data to the resultant multimedia data and calculating a new weight information of said features using the measured value; and

(e) updating the weight information of said features in said data structure of the reference multimedia data using the new weight information.

2. (Original) A method of claim 1, wherein in (c), increasing weights of features which would increase a similarity between the reference multimedia data and the resultant multimedia data if the user feedback is a positive relevance information

3. (Original) A method of claim 2, wherein in (c), increasing weights of features which would increase a dissimilarity between the reference multimedia data and the resultant multimedia data if the user feedback is a negative relevance information.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, wherein a reliability of a weight assigned to a feature one of said features is proportional to an the amount of training by user feedback.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, wherein said data structure of the reference multimedia data further comprises authority information which limits an update of the weight information by a user feedback.

7. (Original) A method of claim 6, wherein the authority information includes a plurality of authority levels, wherein each authority level has degree values affecting the degree of weight information update in (e).

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8. (Original) A method of claim 7, wherein a higher reliability is given to user feedback by a user with a high authority level.

9. (Original) A method of claim 6, wherein in (e), updating the weight information of said features in said data structure of the reference multimedia data depending upon the reliability information and the authority information.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, wherein said data structure of the reference multimedia data further comprises authority information which limits an update of the weight information by a user feedback.

11. (Original) A method of claim 10, wherein the authority information includes a plurality of authority levels, wherein each authority level has degree values affecting the degree of weight information update in (e).

12. (Original) A method of claim 11, wherein receiving a password from a user to determine an authority level of the user.

13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A data structure embodied in a computer-readable medium for a multimedia data searching or browsing systems comprising:

a multimedia data;

a variable information representing features of the multimedia data; and

reliability information representing a reliability of the variable information.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A data structure of claim 18, wherein the reliability information includes information on a number of variable information updates by a user.

21. (Previously Presented) A data structure of claim 18, further comprising and authority code

22. (Original) A data structure of claim 21, wherein the reliability information is variable and includes a number of authority levels, a degree of variable information update for each authority level, and a number of variable information updates by a user of each authority level.

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23. (Original) A data structure of claim 21, wherein the reliability information is fixed and includes a number of variable information updates by a user of fixed authority levels.

24-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A data structure embodied within a computer-readable medium, comprising:

feature information corresponding to at least one image feature;

weight information indicative of an importance of the image feature; and

reliability information indicative of a reliability of the weight information.

30. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 29, wherein the reliability information includes user feedback information.

31. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 29, wherein the reliability information includes update information corresponding to the weight information.

32. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 31, wherein the update information includes:

- (a) a number of times the weight information has been updated by a user; and
- (b) authority information corresponding to the user.

33. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 32, wherein the authority information includes an authority level of the user.

34. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 33, wherein the authority level is based on an amount of experience of the user.

35. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 31, wherein the update information provides an indication of how frequently the weight information has been updated.

36. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 35, wherein the update information provides an indication of how frequently the weight information has been updated by one or more users having at least a minimum authority level.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of searching for multimedia information, comprising:

obtaining a data structure which includes feature information corresponding to at least one image feature, weight information indicative of an importance of the image feature, and reliability information indicative of a reliability of the weight information; and

searching a storage system of multimedia information based on the data structure.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the reliability information provides an indication of the reliability of the weight information based on user feedback.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the reliability information includes update information corresponding to the weight information.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the update information includes:

- (a) a number of times the weight information has been updated by a user; and
- (b) authority information corresponding to the user.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the authority information includes an authority level of the user.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the authority level is based on an amount of experience of the user.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the update information provides an indication of how frequently the weight information has been updated.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the update information provides an indication of how frequently the weight information has been updated by one or more users having at least a minimum authority level.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising:
receiving authority information corresponding to a user;
comparing the authority information to predetermined information; and updating
the weight information using user feedback based on a result of the comparing step.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the predetermined information includes a password.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the comparing step includes:

comparing an authority level of the user to a predetermined authority level,
wherein the updating step is performed only if the authority level of the user is equal to or higher than the predetermined authority level.

48. (Previously Presented) A system of searching multimedia information, comprising:
a storage device which stores a data structure having:

- (a) feature information corresponding to at least one image feature,
- (b) weight information indicative of an importance of the image feature, and
- (c) reliability information indicative of a reliability of the weight information;

and

a processor which searches said multimedia information based on the data structure.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the reliability information provides an indication of the reliability of the weight information based on user feedback.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the reliability information includes update information corresponding to the weight information.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the update information includes:

a number of times the weight information has been updated by a user; and
authority information corresponding to the user.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the authority information includes an authority level of the user.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein the authority level is based on an amount of experience of the user.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the update information provides an indication of how frequently the weight information has been updated.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54, wherein the update information provides an indication of how frequently the weight information has been updated by one or more users having at least a minimum authority level.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, further comprising:
an input unit which receives authority information corresponding to a user; and
a comparator which compares the authority information to predetermined information, wherein the processor updates the weight information using user feedback based on a result output from the comparator.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the predetermined information includes a password.

58. (Previously Presented w) The system of claim 56, wherein the comparator compares an authority level of the user to a predetermined authority level, and wherein the processor updates the weight information only if the authority level of the user is determined to be equal to or higher than the predetermined authority level based on an output from the comparator.

59. (Previously Presented) A method performed by a computing device, comprising:

- receiving an image;
- extracting characteristic attributes from the image;
- ranking the characteristic attributes of the image;
- determining reliability of extracted characteristic attributes of the image; and
- searching a database of images using the extracted characteristic attributes, the ranking of the extracted characteristic attributes, and the determined reliability of the extracted characteristic attributes.

60. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the reliability information is different from the weight information.

61. (New) The data structure of claim 18, wherein the reliability information is different from the variable information.

62. (New) The data structure of claim 29, wherein the reliability information is different from the weight information.

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63. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the reliability information is different from the weight information.

64. (New) The system of claim 48, wherein the reliability information is different from the weight information.